

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 7 - Our Heavenly Dwelling - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

2CO 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. [2] Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, [3] because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. [4] For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. [5] Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2CO 5:6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. [7] We live by faith, not by sight. [8] We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. [9] So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 7 - Our Heavenly Dwelling - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

78. To what kind of tent did Paul refer? Why? (5:1)
79. To what can Christians look forward? (5:1)
80. How could Paul feel confident in the face of ill health and death? (5:1-10)
81. Why did Paul long for heaven? (5:2-3)
82. For what purpose has God made us? (5:4-5)
83. How does the Spirit guarantee what is to come? (5:5)
84. What is true as long as we are alive on this earth? (5:6)
85. How is the Christian life lived? (5:7)

86. What future realities motivated Paul to please the Lord in all he said and did? (5:8-10)
87. What should be the believer's goal? (5:9)
88. Who will be judged by Christ? (5:10)
89. Why must we all appear before the judgment seat of Christ? (5:10)
90. What will people receive at the judgment seat of Christ? (5:10)
91. What does it mean to live by faith and not by sight?
92. How can you prepare yourself today to face the judgment seat of Christ?

Lesson 8 - The Ministry of Reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

2CO 5:11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. [12] We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. [13] If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. [14] For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. [15] And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2CO 5:16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [18] All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: [19] that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. [20] We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin* for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - The Ministry of Reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

93. Why did Paul try to persuade others to follow Christ? (5:11)

94. Why was Paul concerned about justifying his ministry to the Christians at Corinth? (5:12)
95. How were Paul's opponents building themselves up at his expense? (5:12)
96. What motivated Paul? (5:14)
97. Why did Christ die for everyone? (5:15)
98. How did Paul change the way he looked at people? (5:16)
99. What is true about every person in Christ? (5:17)
100. What happened when God sent His Son to earth? (5:18)
101. What does God do with our sins when we are reconciled to Him? (5:19)
102. How is a Christian an ambassador? (5:20)
103. How is it possible for us to be motivated both by the fear of the Lord and Christ's love?
104. Why was it necessary for Christ to die in order for us to be reconciled to God?
105. In what ways do people today receive the grace of God in vain?
106. How can you personally be involved in the ministry of reconciliation?